

THE WASHINGTON HERALD

Published Every Morning in the Year by
THE WASHINGTON HERALD COMPANY
PUBLICATION OFFICE:
1322 NEW YORK AVENUE N. W.
Entered as second-class at Washington, D. C., on
March 20, 1879. (Postpaid) Second-class postage
paid at Washington, D. C.

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All communications intended for this
newspaper, whether for the daily or the
Sunday issue, should be addressed to
THE WASHINGTON HERALD.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY CARRIER:
Daily and Sunday, 10 cents per month
Daily and Sunday, 10 cents per month
Daily, without Sunday, 5 cents per month
Sunday, without Daily, 5 cents per month

SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY MAIL:
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Sunday, without Daily, 5 cents per month

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New York Agency, Broadway Building
Chicago Representative, A. R. KEATOR, 12
North Building

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1912.

Fity the Panic Starter.

What awful conduct punishment has
President-elect Woodrow Wilson
conceived for the unhappy wretch of the
Wall Street brand who shall, in any
way, be responsible for bringing on a
panic in our fair land?

We have heard of boiled oil; of the
culprit being shot from the cannon's
mouth; of starvation, and the terrors
of the Spanish Inquisition; but all of
these are but common everyday tortures
to what the President-elect has up
his sleeve.

Not only is the culprit in danger,
but so long as his line and name shall
live, so long will the pain continue.

Not hanging even on Haman's gal-
lows that were many cubits high, for
"then there would be no pain after death."
Has our good Princeton
president gone back on purgatory and
hades itself, that one so wicked as to
bring disaster, idleness, and smashing
destructive declines on all securities,
even those upon which the widow and
orphan depend for their living, shall
escape the torments of his Satanic
majesty?

No such torments as these came to him
while in staid and lawful Bermuda,
where the populace, white and black,
has the highest regard for the law
and the promise of proper punish-
ment for sinners.

Mr. Wilson has evidently determined
on something new, something that will
jar Wall Street as it has not been
jared since the Standard Oil decision;
since the panic of 1907, when one high
in the councils of the newly formed
"Bell Money" party was charged by
Wall Street itself with causing the
disaster.

Seriously, however, there have been
panics for centuries; the history of
business is a story of failure, of re-
curring depressions over an entire
country, termed panics.

That a panic can be started off by
any threat is more or less nonsense.
Mr. Wilson may rail and then inflict
his awful plans, but after he has been
forgotten panics will come in cycles.
If any one man on Wall Street has
the power to cause a panic he should
be shorn of it—if he exerted this
power no punishment could properly
"fit the crime."

We sincerely hope that the United
States may have a prosperous era
during the Presidency of Woodrow Wilson,
a gentleman, a scholar, and a
student now about to enter upon his
greatest work.

May he never be called upon to in-
flict his threatened horrors.

The Coal Decision.

It was, as the saying is, "half a
loaf," the government being unable to
prove to the satisfaction of the Su-
preme Court of the United States that
there is a combination by the coal-
mining railroads to control the
amount of anthracite coal put on the
market. The highest court does not
find that the contract with the inde-
pendent producers to take over their
output at 65 per cent of the average
market price is an arrangement in re-
straint of trade, or, in other words, il-
legal. The independent production is
about 35 per cent of the total, and, as
sidewater prices are fixed by the com-
bination of railroads which controls
the remaining 75 per cent, it seemed
as though there was a monopoly.

The Attorney General predicts that a break
in these arrangements will destroy the
combination. Let us hope so, but there
are always local conditions which af-
fect not only the price but an ade-
quate supply even at any price.

The suit in hand was instituted un-
der the Sherman act, and the court
has not considered the Hepburn "com-
modities" act in the present situation.
The case against the coal monopoly
has been in the courts some ten years,
but Monday's decision indicates that it
has just begun. The cost of coal to the
consumer is altogether out of propor-
tion to its cost at the mines. The
anthracite railroads, owning the great-
er part of the supply and controlling
the rest, besides having a monopoly of
the transportation, have grown amaz-
ingly rich. It is possible to determine
with exactitude the cost of coal pro-
duction. Then, why not do it? The
Interstate Commerce Commission can
enforce a reasonable and proper rate

of transportation. And the Hepburn
act's purpose is to separate coal pro-
duction and transportation.
While Monday's decision is not sat-
isfying, in that it fails to convict and
correct the general combination which
is responsible for the specific acts that
are condemned, there is no suggestion
that law is lacking when the evidence
in the case is utilized to best advan-
tage.

The Man or the System?

One of the judges of the New York
Court of Special Sessions, at a private
dinner in honor of a mutual
friend, was discussing our penal codes,
our penal institutions, recurring to
ever-recurring but never satisfactorily
answered question, "Does our method
of punishing crime reform the offender,
or—by contact with the worst element
of society—transform a novice in
crime into a full-fledged transgressor,
a menace and horror to society and
to life and limb?"

"I am not a criminologist," said the
judge, a liberal and affable man, a man
with a heart. "I am trying to use
common sense paired with earnest ob-
servation on the bench."

"Let me quote an instance that
should give food for reflection and
should interest scientists, penologists,
and social reformers. Some three
years ago a youth was brought before
me charged with stealing a stickpin
from a patron in a Turkish bath es-
tablishment. It was deliberate theft by
a man in a responsible position of
trust, and I was obliged to impose the
maximum penalty, a year in the county
penitentiary at Blackwells Island."

"You all know the place. You all
have read of conditions 'on the island,'
where good, bad, and indifferent are
thrown together, helter-skelter; where
first offenders work by day and sleep
by night next to hardened criminals,
and where segregation is not prac-
ticed. After the expiration of his term,
the youth's parents brought him to me,
expressing their joy that their son had
"reformed," and telling me how glad
they were."

"I looked long into the young man's
face. I thought that I detected in it
something that had not been there be-
fore, something that I, though know-
ing little, if anything, of criminology,
did not like. But I expressed my
pleasure at the satisfaction that shone
in the countenances of the old couple,
plain, hardworking, and absolutely re-
spectable denizens of the East Side."

"Gentlemen, the parents are Solomon
Horowitz and his wife, and my heart
goes out in pity for their terrible af-
fliction. For their son managed to
leap the entire span in three short
years. He is Horowitz, known to all
of you as "Gyp the Blood," under sen-
tence of death with his pals, the three
other "gunmen" in connection with the
Becker-Rosenthal case!"

"Was it the 'man or the system'?"

Railroad Accidents.

There is this passage in the report
of the Interstate Commerce Commis-
sion, which amply provides food for
thought:

"The most disgusting and perplexing
feature in the problem of accident pre-
vention is the large proportion of train
accidents caused by dereliction of duty
by the employees involved. * * * Of
the 81 accidents investigated up to Sep-
tember 1, 52, or more than 63 per cent
of the whole number, were caused by
mistakes on the part of employees. These
52 accidents comprise 48 of the 49
collisions investigated and 4 of the 31
derailments. They caused the death
of 248 persons and the injury of
1,600 persons. Of the 48 collisions
caused by errors of employees 31 oc-
curred on roads operated under the
train-order system, and 17 occurred
under the block system."

This means to say that the block
system is supposed to make up, in part
at least, for any carelessness of the
train hands, signal towers, and switch-
men, or the engine drivers. It seems
strange to expect mechanical or auto-
matic measures to prevent the increase
of accidents, as long as employees dis-
regard signals or fail to keep clear of
right-of-way trains or fail to control
the speed at crossings.

The Interstate Commerce Commis-
sion is inclined to place the blame for
railroad accidents upon the "enlarged
volume of traffic, increased speed, and
weight of trains and the added duties
and responsibilities which conditions of
modern railroading have placed upon
employees."

But, in the opinion of a responsible
railroad employee, which was published
quite recently, modern railroading has
not increased, but has rather simplified
the duties of train and switch op-
erators. He says that in his signal tower
his former duties of outside and inside
work have been reduced to the single
task of throwing levers. The air-
brakes and other inventions also have
greatly simplified every man's work
in proportion, and the powerful unions
have reduced hours of labor.

So it is not that at all! Perhaps
the Interstate Commerce Commission
would come nearer the solution by in-
vestigating the charge of laxity of dis-
cipline, brought about by the grievance
committees of the unions succeeding
in preventing the infliction of penal-
ties for derelictions of duty. Hasn't
this something to do with the alarm-
ing increase of wrecks, costing thou-
sands of lives or more within a year?

The report of the commission shows a
neglect of some of the fundamental
conditions of safety that must be con-
sidered startling indeed.

Electrically driven machines, with
which stamps can be attached to letters
and packages at a rate of 40 a minute,
are being tested by the German postal
authorities.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

GET BUSY.
The girls behind the counter now
Have kind looks on display.
Of pleasant smiles and waiting wiles
You notice an array.

The girls behind the counter now
Are still dispensing fun.
So do you wait a moment
And get that shopping done.

The girls behind the counter now
Are still a winsome flock.
But minutes fly, you'd better buy
While smiles remain in stock.

Christmas Motives.

Do you give to make people happy,
or merely to disarm criticism?

Hardly that Bad.

"In my day," boasted the old timer,
"pistols and coffee frequently went to
gether at breakfast."
The other, who was unacquainted with
the code duello.

"Gosh," said he, "did the waiters hold
you up at the point of a gun?"

December 10 in History.

December 12, 1532. Henry VIII gets
stuck in the castle chimney practicing
Santa Claus.

December 12, 1756. Bowtell and Dr.
Johnson lost jobs as doorwalkers during
the Christmas rush.

Brought to It.

"Switzerland, usually progressive, is
opposed to the use of the ship in
warfare."

"She got along without a navy for
years, having no coastline. But she has
as much air to protect as anybody else,
don't you see?"

Just Before Christmas.

For girls and boys expecting toys,
The hours limp on their way.
But ma, we'd state, were twenty-eight
Or twenty-nine each day.

They Read the Papers.

"This Noah's ark is not complete."
"What is lacking?" inquired the polite
housewife.

"It contains no chapel and no digdig.
You have no idea how alert children are
about these things."

A Sign.

"I guess she realizes that she is a
confirmed old maid."
"There's always hope. Why do you
say that?"

"I notice she has quit buying mis-
tles."

An Artful Scheme.

"I asked him for two dollars, but he
gave me five."
"Why this unusual generosity?"

"A kind of hint that I wanted to buy
him some Christmas cigars. He thinks
by coughing up liberally that he'll get
a better grade—but he won't."

"Was it the 'man or the system'?"

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COURT GOSSIP OF THE
CUSTOMS OF ENGLISH ROYALTY

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The Queen of England has decided to
dispense in future with the attendance
of her maid of honor, save on state oc-
casions, such as court and state balls at
Buckingham Palace. When this is done,
an extremely interesting link with the
past will be severed. Maids of honor can
be traced back in the history of the
British court to the reign of Edward I.
The reign of Elizabeth, though it was not until the
reign of Elizabeth that they assumed that
important position which they continued
to occupy to the death of the late Queen
Victoria.

When King Edward VII came to the
throne the duties of the maid of honor
were much lighter, and the Queen
herself found so little use for these
young ladies that, when the Hon. Sybil
Brodrick, daughter of Viscount Mid-
dleton, married in the early part of the
current year, her majesty did not fill the
vacancy.

In the reign of George I the duties of
a maid of honor were so tamely de-
scribed: "To eat Westphalia ham in the
morning, ride over hedges and ditches on
borrowed hacks, come home in the
heat of the day in a fever, and (what is
worse a hundred times) with a red mark
on the forehead from an ass's head."
The duties of the maid of honor have
since then become more and more im-
portant, and the position has become
one of the most important in the royal
household.

It is scarcely necessary to say that at
the present day these duties have been
considerably altered. The Queen's three
daughters, the Hon. Victoria, the Hon.
Mabel, and the Hon. Louise, are the
only ones who remain. Each in turn at-
tends her majesty for a fortnight and
is then replaced. Though her duties are
not so extensive as those of the late
Queen Victoria, the position is still a
very important one, and the duties are
very exacting.

The duties of the maid of honor are
very exacting. She must be a lady of
high birth and high standing. She must
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GEYSERS

By GEORGE FITCH,
Author of "At Good Old Sitka."

A geyser is an intermittent hot-water
fountain run by nature.
Nature does this just to show man how
insignificant he is. Man toils and strug-
gles and spends his money and in the
end gets a quart of hot water out of a
faucet in half an hour. Nature produces
an extensive and deep-seated hole in the
ground, connects it with the infernal re-
gions, and once an hour shoots enough
boiling water into the air to launder all
the clothes in the nation.

Geysers are not very numerous and all
those in this country are confined in the
Yellowstone Park, the greatest natural
managers in the world, and the only sec-
tion of the country which is permanently
fitted with hot and cold water. There are
many geysers in the Yellowstone Park and
they are greatly admired by those tour-
ists who are cautious enough to keep out
of range when they geyser. One of the
greatest diversions in America is to travel
to Yellowstone Park and sit around a
preheated hole waiting for it to emit a
few billions of gallons of superheated
moisture. Most geysers are as tempera-
mental as opera singers and perform
when they get good and ready, but some
have a regular schedule and spout a
frequently and accurately as a Presi-
dential candidate on the back platform
of a special train.

The most famous geyser is "Old Faith-
ful," which works every little while,
throwing a huge and beautiful stream of
water high enough to make a city fire-
man's hose look like a child's. The geyser
expire from envy. The largest geyser in
the world is the Excelsior, which gets
so hot and accomplishes something about
as often as the Democratic party in na-
tional politics.

It is wonderfully inspiring to watch a
geyser industriously spouting vast bil-
lions and apices of water from 100 to 400
feet into the air, and those tourists who
travel several thousand miles, paying
travels to the Pullman porters all the
way, always declare that they have got-
ten their money's worth. Still there are
many who would rather spend the same
amount of money on a sultry little supper
on the Gay White Way. This is one of
the things which is the matter with this
country.

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STATESMEN—REAL AND NEAR

By FRED C. KELLY

Senator Massey of Nevada, the man ap-
pointed to succeed the late Senator Nixon,
last summer—but who lost out by half
a length at the election—would add to the
senatorial scrap in Washington. He is a
small, smooth-faced, middle-aged man
with a shrewd smile and little eyes that
blink from behind large spectacles. The
cutest thing about him is his hair, short,
white, and that stands about like a
caterpillar, and makes him look
smart. He wears a black double hat and
plain black clothes, including a long
coat, and his whole air is that of a
lady in a show.

Massey has made a lot of money from
his law practice, and would have even
more wealth accumulated by now if he
had not had to pay out so much of it in
the form of fines for contempt of court.
When he goes through a case without be-
ing fined for contempt he feels just like
a man who has crossed a crowded street
without being hit by an automobile wheel.
It isn't that he hates the judge, under-
stand; he was a member of the State Su-
preme Court himself, and he wouldn't
think of talking back to the man on the
bench. But he has a way of expressing
disrespecting remarks to the opposing
counsel, and even trying to flatter out
the opposing counsel's face with his
face, that causes him to be fined every
little while. Let the opposing counsel
say something that strikes Massey as too
personal and it's all off.

"There are a lot of things that I never
have stood for a man saying to me," he
complains Massey, "and I naturally do not
intend to begin at my age." He also says
that he is not ready to fight his
last fight. Life itself is a fight, he says.
Among other accomplishments, Massey
can invent compact little ruses words into
his conversation with a neatness and
facility that is captivating.

In his rare for Senator last November
Massey was just eighty-nine years be-
hind his opponent in the United States
Senate. The "State Construction Company,"
for which he has been attorney, had a big
stake of nearly 500,000 in building a
new stretch of railroad. It was arranged
that they should be brought into the
nearest town in sight for Massey. Their
votes would have given him a winning
total. But a screw came loose on the
machine, and by the time they got it ad-
justed the train was delayed more than
an hour and did not arrive in town until
the polls had been closed almost ten
minutes.

Massey uses this incident for a hook
on which to hang some of his most pre-
tentious ruses words when he tells
about it.
Key Pittman, the man who beat Mas-
sey for the Senate, is a distant relative
of Francis Scott Key, the "Star-Spangled
Banner" man.

When it looked last spring as if Mr.
T. Roosevelt might be nominated at Chi-
cago, John Callan O'Laughlin, Washing-
ton correspondent for the Chicago Trib-
une, threw off all caution and made
bets with half the man he knew that
T. R. would be the nominee. To keep
the thing from being the Chicago even-
ing not vulgar money; the wagers were
all to be paid in some form of wearing
apparatus, hats, suits, socks, the linen and
the like.

One of the chief beneficiaries of
O'Laughlin's reckless wagers was Louis
Garthe, of the Baltimore American.
Furthermore, Garthe was about to be
married. As soon as the Chicago even-
ing had adjourned, with T. R. still
unnominated, Garthe began to think up
things that would be nice for his
trousseau. On a bright afternoon he
walked into a Washington haberdashery
and stayed there for three hours and a
half picking out the most fetching crea-
tions in silk underwear and other fixings
that any male human ever put into a
trousseau. And all were charged to
O'Laughlin.

The chairman of the Democratic com-
mittee in a New York State town asked
Senator O'Laughlin what he thought of a
certain speaker they expected to get for
a big meeting. O'Laughlin said that,
while he didn't know much about the
man, he would recommend him. His
thoughts were made a good speech.
The man became infuriated and did